1986. Delay in its commissioning resulted in higher departmental and financing charges, besides higher commissioning expenses on raw materials, fuel, power etc. over a long period.

(b) Since all attempts at commissioning the project failed, it does not appear feasible to complete the project without further cost escalation. An additional investment of about Rs. 500 crores has been recommended by the foreign consultants appointed by Government for its end-to-end survey for recommissioning it and enabling it to run at the rated capacity.

Impact of rural development programmes on nutrition standard

1193. SHRI SUBAS MOHANTY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the rural development programmes have made any significant impact on the nutrition standard of the people;

(b) whether any survey has been conducted in this regard in tribal, rural and urban slum areas; and

(c) if so, the findings thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARI): (a) Sustained improvement in nutrition of poor communities can only be achieved as part of overall socio-economic development and is dependent upon factors like increase in income, increased delivery of components of minimum needs programme, social attitudes etc. To the extent rural development programme like Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), National Rural Employment Programme (NREP) and Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme (RLEGP) help in increasing the income of the beneficiary groups, they bring improvement in the nutritional standard of the poor. Foodgrains distributed under NREP/RLEGP also directly help in improving the nutritional level of the poor who work on these programmes.

(b) Yes, Sir. The Nutrition Foundation of India has conducted some studies of nutrition standards of poor communities in 7 regions of the country in tribal, rural and urban slum areas.

(c) The main findings of the studies undertaken by the Nutrition Foundation of India are given in statement enclosed. [*See* Appendix CXLIX, Annexure No. 64]

Foreign Collaborations for import of seeds

1194. SHRI ASHOK NATH VERMA: Will the Minister to AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of Indian companies/firms whose proposals had been approved for foreign collaborations since the new seed policy was announced on 16th September, 1988 and on what terms and conditions;

(b) what are the names of the companies referred to above who had applied for seed import licences after approval of foreign collaborations, alongwith the names/kinds of seeds, country of origin, quantity and value and the details of their import approvals, companywise and the pending proposals in this regard; and

(c) what are the names of the various State Government Seed Corporations which had also applied for import licences for seed import along with the names of the seeds and the quantity and the country of origin?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) A Statement is enclosed. [*See* Appendix CXLIX, Annexure No. 65]